

Grant-Kohrs Ranch

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the
Interior

Grant-Kohrs Ranch
National Historic Site



Service First Initiative



In 1998 Congress passed Public Law 106-291 authorizing federal agencies to provide joint public service and share facilities in an effort to economize. A memorandum of understanding was signed November 2006, between the National Park Service (DOI) and the United States Forest Service(USDA) enabling interagency agreements. April 2007, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site and Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest signed one of the first such agreements in the nation, allowing them to share space on the park site and provide public service in a remodeled joint-agency, Visitor Contact Station.

Open for business for almost a year, the arrangement is successful and appreciated by the public and staff. The savings to the USFS is over \$100,000 annually in the district budget, and the park has gained nearly a full FTE of support for critical core operations. At the visitor center, park staff sell USFS wood cutting and tree permits on weekends, while USFS staff offer critical staffing support for NPS visitors during the winter months. Both share a parking lot that fills differently for each agency's peak seasonal times. Having a full time USFS employee at the contact station during the winter, allows the park to operate more efficiently while providing public service 7 days a week, year round for both agencies.

In addition to public contact services, the two organizations share Law Enforcement, Geographic Information System support and range conservation services. Salaries are exchanged for real estate- (office space and storage) No money transfers hands, but both organizations have enriched operations, while sharing specific expertise and serving the public better. The 5 year General Agreement requires an annual work agreement that estimates the NPS operations and maintenance costs and sets the USFS time allocation.

